November 14, 2008

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Bureau of Land Management
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

We are writing to protest the sale of 18,050 acres in the Little Mountain Area of Wyoming (being offered as 14 separate parcels). These areas include critical habitat for various wildlife species, including huntable species like elk, mule deer, and antelope, as well as important riparian areas for game fish. As hunters and anglers, we ask that you not include these vital areas for lease.

The Little Mountain Area has long been considered a premier hunting area. We ourselves have been lucky enough to draw a few tags there in the past. As our wildlife herds take hit after hit from drought, development, roads and increased human population, this area becomes even more critical for the survival of healthy genetic pools of wildlife.

On behalf of ourselves as hunters and as people who enjoy our open spaces and diverse wildlife, as well as on behalf of the wildlife who cannot protest on their own behalf, we request that you please withdraw these parcels from the auction block.

If we correctly understand the language of the BLM's 150 page report regarding current oil and gas leases available in Wyoming, the particular leases are included among WY-0812-167 through WY-0812-196. We hope that this letter meets the criteria to formally protest any leases within the Little Mountain, Sage Creek, Currant Creek and Red Creek areas (elk hunt areas 30-32, deer area 120, and antelope areas 59 and 112) in Sweetwater County, Wyoming, within the areas administered by the Rock Springs field office.

As an additional comment/protest we would also like to say that there is something very wrong with a system that seems designed to discourage public input and local decision making on something impacting our entire ecosystem, including land health, air and water quality, as well as other non tangible benefits we now enjoy like open view sheds and the lack of noise.

Thank you –

Michele Sherwood Robert Irwin

Michele Sherwood & Robert Irwin
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cc: US Senator John Barrasso
Rock Springs Field Office BLM